

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • REpublic 7-4215 extension 248

FOR RELEASE: FEBRUARY 20, 1966

WASHINGTON, D.C. February 20, 1966. A Rembrandt drawing which was once in the collection of Prince Franz Joseph II of Liechtenstein has been acquired by the National Gallery of Art through the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund. The announcement was made by Director John Walker.

The acquisition is seen for the first time here in the National Gallery's premiere exhibition of drawings from its own collection, a special event of the gallery's 25th anniversary year.

The pen and wash sketch of the artist's wife Saskia Lying in Bed was executed about 1638 in Amsterdam, a few years before she gave birth to their son, Titus. Saskia died four years later, in 1642.

Of the approximately 100 known Rembrandt drawings in America, the National Gallery now owns 14, including the famous Self-Portrait in the Rosenwald Collection.

"This is the first time in its 25 years that the National Gallery has acquired a drawing through direct purchase," Mr. Walker said. He added that the Gallery's collection of drawings

(more)

is composed largely of the gifts of Lessing J. Rosenwald.

The latest addition is a brilliant quick sketch from life of Rembrandt's handsome wife lying awake in bed. The bed clothes are in disarray and Saskia holds one hand coquettishly over her head. She may have been in animated conversation as she watched her painter husband with obvious interest and affection.

Rembrandt captured a loving, intimate mood with the minimum of strokes that mark the master. His drawing illustrates the spontaneity, the economy of means, and the humanity that make him a contemporary of each new generation.

The exhibition in which this acquisition is included is a selection of the National Gallery's master drawings from the 15th to the 20th century. It includes the work of Dürer, Blake, Tiepolo, Daumier, Manet, Ingres, Fragonard, and Matisse. They will be on view in the Central Gallery through April 17.

End

Black-and-white glossy photographs on loan for purposes of publication are available from William W. Morrison, Assistant to the Director, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.